

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An array system comprising:

a plurality of disk drives; and

a control unit for controlling read/write of data requested by a plurality of host processors into the plurality of disk drives, using a plurality of logical volumes constituted by storage areas of the plurality of disk drives, and

the control unit being controllable to allow or delay a read request or a write request sent from a host computer which has no exclusive control function, by controlling allowance or delay of the read request or the write request based on information received from the host computer with the read request or the write request,

wherein, when the control unit receives multiple requests from different host processors for a logical storage area having a different size than a size of one of the logical volumes, the control unit controls to allow a first read request or write request of the multiple requests and controls to delay a second read request or write request of the multiple requests, and

wherein, if the information received by the control unit from the host processor includes information as to the logical storage area, the control unit controls allowance or delay of the read request or the write request by using the logical storage area, but if the information received from the host processor does not include the information as to the logical storage area, the control unit controls allowance or delay of the read request or the write request by using the logical volumes.

26. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of host adaptors which control data transfer between the control unit and the plurality of disk drives.

27. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical volumes.

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical volumes.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 28, wherein the control unit includes cache memories which enable the transfer of data between the host adaptors and the disk adaptors.

30. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit includes a control memory which stores control information into a plurality of tables.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit controls to delay the second read or write request of the multiple requests if a data range of the second read or write request and a data range of the first read or write request overlap a same logical storage area and the control unit permits the second read or write request and the first read or write request to be handled in parallel if their data ranges do not overlap in the same logical storage area.

32. (Currently Amended) An array system comprising:

- a plurality of disk drives; and
- a control unit for controlling read/write of data requested by a plurality of host processors into the plurality of disk drives, using a plurality of logical volumes constituted by storage areas of the plurality of disk drives,

the control unit being controllable to allow or delay a read request or a write request sent from a host computer which has no exclusive control function, by controlling allowance or delay of the read request or the write request based on information received from the host computer with the read request or the write request,

wherein, when the control unit receives multiple requests from different host processors for a logical storage area having a different size than a size of one of the logical volumes and determines that the data ranges of the multiple requests overlap, the multiple requests are not handled in parallel, and

wherein, if the information received by the control unit from the host processor includes information as to the logical storage area, the control unit controls allowance or delay of the read request or the write request by using the logical storage area, but if the information received from the host processor does not include the information as to the logical storage area, the control unit controls allowance or delay of the read request or the write request by using the logical volumes.

33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of host adaptors which control data transfer between the control unit and the plurality of disk drives.

34. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical volumes.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 33, wherein the control unit includes a plurality of disk adaptors which control the read/write of data from/to the plurality of logical volumes.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, wherein the control unit includes cache memories which enable the transfer of data between the host adaptors and the disk adaptors.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 32, wherein the control unit includes a control memory which stores control information into a plurality of tables.

38. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein the logical storage area is an extent corresponding to a portion of said one of the logical volumes.

39. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 32, wherein the logical storage area is an extent corresponding to a portion of said one of the logical volumes.